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Moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines

Report of the Secretary-General

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ITALY

[31 October 1994]

1. On 29 September 1994, Mr. Antonio Martino, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, made the following statement in the general debate at the current session of the General Assembly:

> "I wish to take this opportunity formally to announce the terms of Italy's moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines. The moratorium will apply to all transfers and be applied until new international regulations become effective. This commitment imposes an economic cost, but one that my country is willing to pay. We urge all Member States to adopt similar national moratoriums until the international regime has been finalized." (A/49/PV.11)

2. This decision was taken in view of the grave humanitarian problems caused by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel land-mines and of the terrible injuries caused to civilian populations by land-mines in many areas of the world. The Government of Italy has, over the past few years, redoubled its efforts to reduce the severe consequences of the use of such weapons and attaches the highest priority to the humanitarian aspects of the problems related to land-mines.

3. Together with its partners of the European Union, Italy promoted at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution on "Assistance in mind clearance", which was approved by consensus (resolution 48/7 of 19 October 1993), in favour of funding de-mining operations, information and training programmes relating to mine clearance in coordination with the United Nations.

4. The Italian Parliament is about to ratify the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

5. The Government of Italy has taken due note of resolution No. B 3-174/92 of the European Parliament on the severe harm caused by land-mines, and expresses its appreciation for the initiatives by the International Committee of the Red Cross to contain and alleviate the consequences of the spread of anti-personnel land-mines.

6. In 1993, Italy joined the approval by consensus of General Assembly resolution 48/75 K of 16 December 1993, calling for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines that pose grave dangers to civilian populations. Since November 1993, the Government of Italy has not authorized further export of mines.

7. At the Group of Seven summit meeting at Naples, Italy, together with its partners, declared that it assigned priority to the problems of anti-personnel land-mines, including efforts to curb their indiscriminate use, halt their export and assist in their clearance worldwide.

8. In August 1994, the issue of anti-personnel land-mines was the object of a motion by the Italian Senate. On that occasion the Government of Italy undertook to observe a unilateral moratorium on the sale of anti-personnel land-mines in application of General Assembly resolution 48/75 K and to activate the means necessary to block the production of such weapons.

9. The Italian moratorium will apply to the export, sale or any other transfer of anti-personnel land-mines according to the terms of resolution 48/75 K. It took effect on 29 September 1994 and will last until the entry into force of a possible new international regime regulating the export and production of anti-personnel mines. Italy is committed to providing its contribution to the setting up of such a regime.